

To: Senator Slossberg and Representative Spallone
-Co-Chairs GAE
Senator Meyers and Representative Aresimowicz
-Vice Chairs GAE
Senator McLachlan and Representative Hetherington
-Ranking Members GAE
Honorable Members of the GAE Committee

February 9, 2010

I would like to offer testimony to your committee concerning the Citizens Election Fund and Connecticut's Campaign Finance Laws. While it is well known that I am not in favor of publically funded campaigns, I offer these suggestions in the spirit of improving the current statute and program.

1. All candidates that qualify by delegate convention or petition signatures should be able to qualify for the same grant amount.
2. Contributions raised to qualify for grants must be verifiable as district / town residents.
3. Further define what the Committee would restrict in the area of coordinated expenditures.
4. Issue strict guidelines including timelines to SEEC to investigate election complaints. Develop an appeals process other than Connecticut's overburdened court system in the event of a dispute.
5. Issue strict guidelines including timelines to SEEC to conduct election filing audits.

Background:

On August 26, 2008 my campaign treasurer John Kirschbaum filed two (2) complaints with the Connecticut State Elections Enforcement Commission. One complaint concerned our belief that a coordinated expenditure occurred between Connecticut Citizens Action Group (CCAG) and my primary opponent's campaign. The second complaint alleged that my primary opponent did not meet the minimum requirement to qualify for a campaign grant. I have attached a copy of the formal complaint. SEEC acknowledged receipt of the complaint on September 8, 2008. This is also attached. To our knowledge, SEEC has never investigated or issued a ruling on this complaint during the past 17 months.

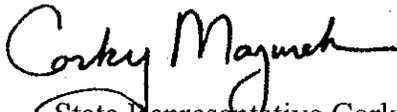
Unbelievably, a similar complaint concerning a coordinated expenditure, filed by my primary opponent, was investigated by SEEC within days. SEEC must give equal weight to election violation complaints and complete all investigations in a timely manner.

In December 2008, SEEC requested complete campaign financial records from Mr. Kirschbaum. These were submitted and documented by SEEC on December 12-30-2008. Andrew Cascudo of SEEC called Mr. Kirschbaum in February of 2009 and complimented his precise and well organized records. Now, twelve months after the complete submittal of these records, SEEC has informed Mr. Kirschbaum that they have completed their initial review of the documents (for the second time!!!). SEEC has

requested additional paperwork including cancelled checks. Since the campaign checking account has long since been closed, the bank will charge \$5.00 per cancelled check copy. The legislature should not require a campaign committee to be closed and zero-balanced and then audit that committee a year and a half later.

I would be happy to supply GAE with any additional information or testimony you might require.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Corky Mazurek". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

State Representative Corky Mazurek

Cc: Mr. John Kirschbaum

Connecticut State Elections Enforcement Commission
20 Trinity Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

August 26, 2008

Attention: Attorney Jeffery B. Garfield –
Executive Director and General Council

Dear Attorney Garfield,

I am the campaign treasurer for State Representative Corky Mazurek. As you are probably aware, Representative Mazurek was recently involved in a primary for his General Assembly seat.

I wish to file two separate election complaints against his opponent Karen Houghtaling and her election committee.

1. Ms. Houghtaling's Campaign Manager is Phil Sherwood. Mr. Sherwood is a Connecticut registered lobbyist and is also Deputy Director of Connecticut Citizens Action Group (CCAG). I believe that his employment at CCAG and his position as Campaign Manager for candidate Houghtaling, gives rise to a coordinated expenditure between Ms. Houghtaling and CCAG. I ask that SEEC issue a ruling on this question.
2. According to Ms. Houghtaling's campaign filing for "Karen Houghtaling State Rep 80th District" dated 7-1-08 through 7-16-08, shows \$5,010 raised for the period and \$5,045 total raised for the campaign.
 - Nearly 35% of the Houghtaling contributions recorded were from people who reside in but are not registered to vote in the district. This in and of itself is not a violation of State Statute, however, a quick investigation of her contributions shows contributions totaling \$82 from people, roads, or addresses that do not exist:

Lorrie Mineral 61 Islan Dr. Wolcott - no such road \$8

Raymond Gertil 57 Lakewood Dr. Wolcott – no such road \$20

William and Terri Skurkis 361 Spindle Hill Road – both have stated they did not make any contributions to "Karen Houghtaling State Rep 80th District" \$5 each

Annie Scranton 18 Maple Lane, Wolcott – does not reside there \$5

Domanic Tafuto 41 Woodward Dr, Wolcott – does not reside there \$14

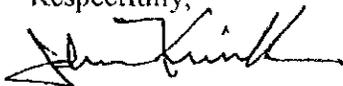
Alan Ladd 34 Tosun Road, Wolcott – no such address. \$5

Mark Macary 54 Madwood Ave, Wolcott – no such road \$20

As you can see, subtraction of these donations would place her committee under the \$5000 threshold to receive public financing. I ask that SEEC issue a ruling on the question of the Houghtaling committee's qualification for public funding.

Should you need additional information from me or additional testimony, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,



John Kirschbaum
54 Spindle Hill Road
Wolcott, CT 06716
203-879-4406



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION
20 Trinity Street Hartford, Connecticut 06106 – 1628

September 8, 2008

John F. Kirschbaum
54 Spindle Hill Rd
Wolcott, CT 06716

Re: Your complaint received August 29, 2008

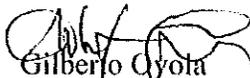
Dear Mr. Kirschbaum:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your complaint alleging violation of Connecticut election laws. For your reference, this matter has been assigned File No. 08-121.

If you have any additional information, which might assist the Commission in reviewing this matter, please contact me at the number listed below or via e-mail at Gilberto.oyola@ct.gov or Lead Legal Investigator Charlie Urso at Charlie.urso@ct.gov.

Thank you for bringing this matter to the Commission's attention.

Sincerely,


Gilberto Oyola
Lead Legal Investigator

Note: A copy of this letter along with a copy of your complaint will be sent to Respondent(s).